

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 PM-03 SCS-03 EB-07

OFA-01 SCA-01 INR-07 DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00

NSAE-00 DODE-00 /062 W

----- 062621

O P 142330Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4826

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 QUITO 1841

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EFIS EC US

SUBJECT: NEPTUNE INCIDENT: REQUEST FOR GOE INVESTIGATION

REF: A) STATE 56753 B) QUITO 1814

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF ENGLISH LETTER AND ENCLOSURES DELIVERED
MARCH 14 BY NAVATT TO ECUADOREAN CNO, ADMIRAL VASQUEZ.

2. BEGIN TEXT LETTER: ON BEHALF OF THE EMBASSY OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA, I WOULD LIKE TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION AN
INCIDENT WHICH OCCURRED ON MARCH 6, 1975 ABOARD THE AMERICAN
FLAG MOTOR VESSEL "NEPTUNE", WHICH WAS BEING DETAINED IN
SALINAS AWAITING ORDERS TO IMPLEMENT THE DIRECTIVE CONCERNING
THE CONFISCATION OF ITS TUNA CATCH. AT ABOUT 1100 HOURS
APPROXIMATELY 30-40 ARMED ECUADOREAN NAVAL PERSONNEL, COMMANDED
BY LT. PITA AND INCLUDING SEVERAL PETTY OFFICERS, APPROACHED
THE "NEPTUNE" IN TWO BOATS, FIRED THEIR WEAPONS IN THE AIR
AND BOARDED THE AMERICAN VESSEL. THE STATEMENTS OF ALL
CREWMEN ABOARD AT THE TIME, AS WELL AS THAT OF A REPRESENTATIVE
OF THE EMBASSY WHO ARRIVED ON THE "NEPTUNE" JUST PRIOR
TO THE BOARDING, CONFIRM THE FACT THAT THE CREW OFFERED
NO RESISTANCE TO THE BOARDING.

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DURING THE COURSE OF THE INCIDENT, OTHER SHOTS WERE FIRED AND THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE "NEPTUNE" WERE SUBJECTED TO A PROLONGED ASSAULT, MUCH OF WHICH OCCURRED AFTER THEY HAD BEEN ASSEMBLED ON DECK AND WERE SITTING DOWN UNDER GUARD, AS ORDERED. THIS BEATING CONSISTED OF KICKS, PUNCHES, AND BLOWS BY CLUBS, RIFLE BUTTS AND LUMBER LYING ON DECK. ALTHOUGH AMERICAN CITIZENS OR THOSE BELIVED TO BE AMERICAN WERE APPARENTLY SINGLED OUT FOR THE MOST SEVERE PUNISHMENT, NO CREWMEMBERS ON BOARD WERE SPARED. ALL CREWMEN AND AN EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVE WHO WITNESSED THE OCCURRENCE AGREED THAT THIS ATTACK APPEARED TO BE LED BY A PETTY OFFICER WHOSE NAMES IS BELIEVED TO BE ROBERTO TERAN-PLAZA, WHO ALSO PERSONALLY STRUCK MANY CREWMEMBERS WITH VARIOUS WEAPONS. ATTACHED IS A LIST OF THE INJURED PERSONNEL (FIVE OF WHOM REQUIRED HOSPITAL ATTENTION), SPECIFYING THE TYPE OF INJURY AND CAUSE.

ABOUT A HALF HOUR AFTER THE BOARDING, THE "NEPTUNE'S" COMPLEMENT, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF AN AMERICAN CREWMAN, STEVEN KING, WHO WAS TOO INJURED TO MOVE IMMEDIATELY, WAS TAKEN TO THE SALINAS NAVAL BASE. WHILE MR. KING WAS ABOARD, HE OBSERVED THE SYSTEMATIC LOOTING OF THE ROOMS OF THE SHIP'S OFFICERS AND MEN BY THE REMAINING ECUADOREAN DETACHMENT LED BY PETTY OFFICER TERAN-PLAZA. THE PETTY OFFICER WAS SEEN TO BE PERSONALLY CARRYING OUT A CREWMAN'S CAMERA, AND OTHER ECUADOREAN NAVAL PERSONNEL LOOTED AND RANSACKED THE CABINS. THE EMBASSY REPRESENTATIVES ACCOMPANYING THE RETURNING CREWMEMBERS ABOARD SHIP AT ABOUT 1630 HOURS REPORTED THAT THE CABINS WERE IN COMPLETE DISORDER, WITH PERSONAL EFFECTS STREWN ALL OVER THE BEDS AND FLOORS. ATTACHED IS A LIST OF THE STOLEN ARTICLES, VALUED AT US \$8,118.

WE ARE WELL AWARE OF THE INCIDENTS CONCERNING JAMES LARKINS, A MEMBER OF THE "NEPTUNE'S" CREW, WHO SCUFFLED AND FOUGHT WITH ONE OR MORE ECUADOREAN NAVAL PERSONNEL BETWEEN 0400 AND 0900 ON MARCH 6. ACCORDING TO THE STATEMENTS OF THE OTHER CREWMEMBERS WITNESSING THOSE INCIDENTS, THEY ATTEMPTED TO BREAK UP THE STRUGGLES AND TO AVOID SERIOUS INJURIES ON BOTH SIDES. THE EMBASSY RECOGNIZES
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THAT THIS WAS A SERIOUS OCCURRENCE AND REGRETS ANY IMPROPER ACTIONS ON THE PART OF MR. LARKINS, WHO WAS SUBSEQUENTLY TRIED AND PUNISHED FOR HIS OFFENSE.

WE ALSO FIND IT MOST REGRETTABLE THAT IN THE EARLY STAGES OF THE INCIDENT MORE USE WAS NOT MADE OF OFFERS BY OUR CONSUL GENERAL IN GUAYAQUIL TO BE OF ASSISTANCE. IT IS ESPECIALLY UNFORTUNATE THAT OUR CONSUL GENERAL'S

REQUEST THAT THE BOARDING OF THE VESEL BE DELAYED UNTIL
HE COULD ARRIVE AT SALINAS FROM GUAYAQUIL WAS IGNORED.

WE ARE ALSO VERY DISTURBED BY OUR CONSUL GENERAL'S REPORT
THAT LATER IN THE SAME DAY ONE OF HIS BODYGUARDS, A
NATIONAL POLICEMAN PROVIDED BY THE ECUADOREAN GOVERNMENT,
WAS ORDERED DISARMED BY THE COMMANDER OF THE SALINAS
NAVAL BASE. OUR CONSUL GENERAL'S CAR WAS ALSO SEARCHED.

WE MUST THEREFORE EXPRESS OUR MOST SERIOUS CONCERN
OVER THE UNWARRANTED USE OF EXCESSIVE FORCE AGAINST THE
UNARMED CREW AND OFFICERS OF THE UNITED STATES FLAG VESSEL
"NEPTUNE" AND REQUEST THAT APPROPRIATE STEPS BE TAKEN
TO DEAL WITH THE SITUATION. SPECIFICALLY, WE REQUEST FIRST
THAT THIS INCIDENT BE INVESTIGATED BY THE APPROPRIATE
NAVAL AUTHORITIES; SECOND, THAT APPROPRIATE DISCIPLINARY
ACTION BE TAKEN AGAINST THE PERSONNEL FOUND TO HAVE ACTED
IMPROPERLY; AND, FINALLY THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO
RECOVER THE ARTICLES MISSING FROM THE "NEPTUNE" DURING
THE PERIOD WHEN IT WAS UNDER THE COMPLETE CONTROL OF
ECUADOREAN NAVAL PERSONNEL AND THAT THE CREW MEMBERS BE
COMPENSATED FOR ANY ARTICLES WHICH ARE NOT RECOVERED.

I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ADVISING ME OF WHAT-
EVER STEPS HAVE BEEN TAKEN TO DEAL WITH THIS MATTER.

PLEASE ACCEPT THE RENEWED ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST
AND MOST DISTINGUISHED CONSIDERATION. END TEXT LETTER.

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

NSC-05 L-02 H-02 PA-01 PRS-01 SCS-03 EB-07 OFA-01

SCA-01 INR-07 DLOS-03 CG-00 DOTE-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 /062 W

----- 062820

O P 142330Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4827
INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 QUITO 1841

3. BEGIN TEXT ENCLOSURE #1. LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEN INJURED ON M/V NEPTUNE. LISTED BELOW ARE THE NAMES OF THE OFFICERS AND MEN OF THE THE M/V NEPTUNE INJURED AS A RESULT OF THE BOARDING OF THE VESSEL ON MARCH 6, 1975. INCLUDED ARE THE NATIONALITIES OF THE MEN, A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR INJURIES AND A REFERENCE TO THE CAUSE OF EACH INJURY. THE NAMES MARKED WITH # INDICATE INDIVIDUALS REQUIRING HOSPITAL ATTENTION.

JOHN BURICH - (US) BRUISES IN HIP AREA (KICKS)

WAYNE SIMON - (TRINIDADIAN) - DISLOCATED SHOULDER (RIFLE BUTT), SPRAINED OR DISLOCATED FINGER (CLUB)

LITTON THOMAS - (JAMAICAN) - BRUISES & CONTUSIONS OF SHOULDER (BOARD), BRUISES IN WAIST AREA (KICKS)

STEVEN KING - (US) - BRUISES & CONTUSIONS ON BACK & SHOULDER (CLUBS, KICKS & RIFLE BUTTS), CUT & BUMPS ON HEAD (CLUB), PAIN IN KIDNEY AREA KICKS & CLUBS)

RICHARD SMITH - (US) - BRUISES ON BACK (CLUBS), PAIN ON ELBOW (CLUB), WEAKNESS IN KNEE (KICK)
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DON L. BYRD - (US) - LACERATION OF HEAD (CLUB), BRUISE ON HIP (KICK), BRUISE & SORENESS IN NECK & UPPER CHEST (KICK), BRUISE ON SHOULDER (CLUB), SORENESS IN STOMACH (.45 PISTOL).

RICH BYRD - (US) - LACERATION OF HEAD - 6 STITCHES (CLUB), WELTS & BRUISES ON BACK & SHOULDERS (CLUB)

FRANCISO BASALDELLA - (ITALIAN) - BRUISE ON UPPER LEG (KICK)

EZEQUIAL CANO - (PERUVIAN) - BRUISE & PAIN IN SPINE AREA (RIFLE BUTT), BRUISE & SWELLING ON KNEE (CLUB), PAIN IN NECK AREA, BACK & WAIST (CLUB & KICKS)

ISIS TORRES - (PANAMANIAN) - PAIN IN AREA OF UPPER ARMS (RIFLE BUTT)

JAMES LARKINS - (US) - BRUISES ON BACK & CHEST (RIFLE BUTTS & CLUBS)

RALPH MARCIAL - (TRINIDADIAN) - BRUISE ON TEMPLE (RIFLE BUTT),
SWELLING & PAIN IN CHEST, BACK & RIB (KICKS & CLUBS),
BUMPS ON HEAD (CLUBS), PAIN IN KNEE (CLUBS)

JORGE AGUIRRE - (PANAMANIAN) - BRUISES ON HANDS AND
LEG (CLUBS), PAIN IN NECK, STOMACH & BACK OF HEAD
(KICKS, CLUBS, RIFLE BUTTS)

JESUS FIGUEROA - (PERUVIAN) - CONTUSIONS ON LOWER LEG
(FELL DOWN LADDER AS RESULT OF BEING STRUCK BY RIFLE
BUTT), PAINS IN HEAD, CHEST & BACK (KICKS & CLUBS)

LUIS HERRERA - (PERUVIAN) - BRUISES & PAIN IN CHEST,
SHOULDERS, BACK (CLUBS).

END ENCLOSURE # 1.

4. BEGING ENCLOSURE #2. SUMMARY LIST OF MISSING ARTICLES
OF M/V NEPTUNE.

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BRACELETS:

1 YELLOW GOLD SLAVE BRACELET WITH SUPERIMPOSED EAGLE.
1 AMERICAN INDIAN BRACELET, SILVER, WIDE, WITH SEVERAL
TURQUOISE STONES.
1 IDENTIFICATION BRACELET AND CHAIN, WHITE GOLD.

CAMERAS AND RADIOS:

1 SUPER 8 MM CANON MOVE CAMERA, ZOOM LENS, MODEL 18.
1 KODAK INSTAMATIC CAMERA, MODEL 40.
1. KODAK INSTAMATIC CAMERA, AUTOMATIC WITH BROWN LEATHER CASE.
1 MIOLTA POCKET CAMERA.
1 SANYO 4 BAND TRANSISTOR RADIO.
1 SONY 5 BAND AC/DC, SW PORTABLE RADIO
1 MINOLTA 35 MM CAMERA, MODEL "HIMATIC C".

CLOTHES:

1 YELLOW BELL-BOTTOM POLOYESTER SLACKS.
5 LONG SLEEVE FLOWERED SHIRTS.
3 COTTON, KNIT SHIRT-SWEATERS, SHORT SLEEVE (1 RED & YELLOW,
1 PURPLE, 1 CREAM & BROWN).
1 PR. BLACK WORK SHOES, "RED WING" BRAND.
1 PR. WHITE ELK SHOES, "TOPSIDERS" BRAND.
1 PR. BROWN OIL RESISTANT WORK BOOTS.

MISCELLANEOUS:

- 1 "LUFKIN" MICROMETER.
- 1. FOLDING HUNTING KNIFE WITH CASE, "BUCK" BRAND.
- 17 PRE-RECORDED CASSETTES.
- 5 PRESCRIPTION SUNGLASSES.
- 1 SET OF BRUT LOTIONS.
- 1 SET OF LIQUOR BOTTLES.
- 2 COLOGNE BOTTLES.
- 1 BOSCH & LOMB 7 X 50 BINOCULARS.
- 3 CASES OF BEER, 1-1/2 CASES COCA COLA (CANS)

RINGS:

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- 4 YELLOW GOLD WEDDING RINGS.
- 2 YELLOW GOLD RINGS WITH SUPERIMPOSED INCA FIGURE.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD BORDER WITH WHITE GOLD INTERIOR WEDDING RING.
- 1 WHITE GOLD RING WITH 5 DIAMOND CHIPS.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD RING WITH 1 LARGE RUBY.
- 1 1 YELLOW GOLD RING WITH RED STONE, INSCRIPTION "SWEETWATER UNION H.S."
- 1. YELLOW GOLD RING WITH BLUE STONE.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD WEDDING RING WITH WHITE GOLD BORDER AND WHITE STONE.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD LARGE RING WITH WHITE GOLD BORDER AND RED STONE.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD RING WITH 3 SMALL RUBIES.
- 1 EYLOW GOLD RING WITH NO STONE.

WATCHES:

- 4 SEIKO WHITE GOLD AUTOMATIC CALENDAR WATCHES.
- 2 SEIKO YELLOW GOLD AUTOMATIC CALENDAR WATCHES.
- 1 SORNA STAINLESS STEEL CHRONOMETER WATCH.
- 1 WESTLOCK YELLOW GOLD POCKET WATCH AND CHAIN - TRAIN ENGRAVED ON REAR.
- 1 OMEGA AUTOMATIC CALENDAR WATCH, CONSTELLATION MODEL.
- 1 BULOVA YELLOW GOLD, AUTOMATIC WATCH, ACUTRON MODEL.

NECKLACES:

- 1 18K YELLOW GOLD, TRIPLE STRAND.
- 1 DOUBLE LINK, YELLOW GOLD, WITH SQUARE CHRIST FIGURE PENDANT.
- 1 DOUBLE LINK, YELLOW BOLD, WITH ROUND MADONNA AND CHILD PENDANT.
- 1 DOUBLE LINK, YELLOW GOLD, WITH ROUND VIRGIN MARY PENDANT.
- 1. WHITE GOLD, WITH ST. CHRISTOPHER MEDAL.
- 1 YELLOW GOLD, SINGLE STRAND, WITH ENGRAVED CRUCIFIX ON

PENDANT.

1 YELLOW GOLD, DOUBLE STRAND, WITH MANY POINTED STAR PENDANT.

CURRENCY:

US \$545.00 - S/. 6,920.00

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TOTAL VALUE OF MISSING ARTICLES - US \$8,118.00
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, TEXT, NEPTUNE, INVESTIGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975QUITO01841
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750090-0869
From: QUITO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750349/aaaabsfk.tel
Line Count: 346
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Reference: 75 STATE 56753, 75 QUITO 1814
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Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
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TAGS: PFOR, EFIS, EC, US, (BURICH, JOHN), (KING, STEVEN), (SMITH, RICHARD), (LARKINS, JAMES), (BYRD, DON L), (BYRD, RICH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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